

The Council Report

2006 Annual Report & Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2008



MELANIE ROSE WHITE, *Mayor*
MAURICE J. TREBACH, *Chairman*
LEONARD E. MUDD, *Vice Chairman*
ELIZABETH DEMETRA HARRIS, *Secretary*
ALVAN M. MORRIS, *Treasurer*
ROBERT M. SCHWARZBART, *Parliamentarian*
LEONARD J. GRANT, *Historian*

Challenging Changes

Mayor's Comments

Melanie Rose White

One of my 86-year-old mother's favorite phrases is "Nothing's permanent." She most often says this with a touch of wistfulness, as if life would be better if it would just stay the same. Every now and then though, she'll use this expression with a sense of adventure, too, knowing that change is often welcome—like a newfound friend. And in many ways, *change*—often-times appreciated; sometimes less so—was the key word for residents of Friendship Heights during the year.

You don't have to look far to realize that the neighborhood surrounding our Village has transformed and will continue to do so during the coming months. Construction sites are expanding on many corners, new restaurants and shops continue to open, altered traffic patterns abound, and a once-familiar skyline is different. The changes aren't only physical either. Our new County Executive—Ike Leggett—is a longtime friend of the Village and he presides over a county filled with new leadership.

Inside the Village, we continue to protect and strengthen the programs, services, and amenities that make our home so special. Our residents tell us regularly what is it about the Village that makes them want to stay here and how we can improve their quality of life. Maybe we can't convince the new Giant to stock our favorite brand of crackers, but we have made our crosswalks safer, lowered our taxes, and hosted world-class speakers at the Village Center. Take a look inside this annual report, and you'll find examples of how your Village Council and staff work side by side to improve and sustain one of the best communities in Maryland. From the do-over of Humphrey Park's landscaping to our efforts to save the bus depot, this report outlines a record of our achievements.

Many of these achievements are dependent on tax revenue. Please take a moment to read the Treasurer's Report on page 5 prepared by Dr. Alvan Morris. Review the proposed budget for FY2008 and see why we think the residents of the Village continue to get the best value for their tax dollars. For the second year running, the budget proposes a tax rate of 4 cents per \$100—the lowest rate allowed by our charter! **The FY 08 budget is balanced and funds all of the excellent services that you expect from your community.**

As I think back over 2006, I'm reminded of so many of the changes that I mentioned earlier. One of the hardest to deal with was the loss of Councilman Frank



Governor Erlich signed a bill mandating defibrillators in public high schools throughout Maryland. Council member Al Morris helped champion the lifesaving bill with Delegate Susan Lee.

Valeo. He served his beloved community for many years and was a dedicated public servant. I'm sad to have lost Frank, but delighted that our newest Council member—Len Grant—is on board.

On behalf of the Council—all volunteers as well—I thank the many residents who donate their time each month on behalf of the Village. Many thanks, too, to our talented Village staff who interact each day with those who live and work in Friendship Heights. Please continue to share your comments and questions with the Council and staff. We're stronger as a community when we come together.

Best wishes to you all for a happy and safe year ahead. See you at the Center.

2006 Village Report

Julian P. Mansfield, Village Manager

The Friendship Heights Village Council consists of seven volunteer residents elected by the community to serve two-year terms. Each Council member serves as an officer: Melanie White, Mayor; Maurice Trebach,



*Melanie
Rose White*



*Maurice
Trebach*



*Leonard
Mudd*



*Elizabeth
Harris*



*Alvan
Morris*



*Robert
Schwarzbart*



*Leonard
Grant*

Chairman; Leonard "Chip" Mudd, Vice Chairman; Elizabeth Harris, Secretary; Alvan Morris, Treasurer; Robert Schwarzbart, Parliamentarian; and Leonard Grant, Historian.

Frank Valeo, a Council member for 17 years, passed away in April. During his tenure he served as Council Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Historian. We will always remember his distinguished service to the Village, preceded by an illustrious career as Secretary of the United States Senate. His Village Council seat was filled by Leonard Grant.

Assisting us in keeping the Center open seven days a week is our much appreciated group of volunteers. My special thanks to them and to our terrific staff. In December we toasted three staff members on their work anniversaries: Betty Ardizzone and Pauline Martin, 20 years, and Bob Shapiro, 10 years. Claire Carmichael,



Hedges were replaced throughout Humphrey Park as part of the landscaping renovation.

former front desk receptionist at the Center, died in July. She was a consistent and welcome presence at our front desk for over 16 years.

HUMPHREY PARK LANDSCAPING RENOVATION

The major project this past year was the renovation of the landscaping in Hubert Humphrey Park, spearheaded by

Councilman Morris. In January the Council approved the recommendations of the Capital Improvements Committee for the landscape redesign. The work included replacement of the hedges with a new uniform variety; replacement of the multi-trunk holly (moved to Page Park) with a new single-trunk holly; new plantings on the west side of the Center; removing yews and holly in the Japanese maple bed at the Center front entrance; new planting beds under the trees in the east, west, and south sides of the park; regrading of grassy areas on both sides of the portico steps; and replacing the sprinkler system.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

We continued our participation in various organizations of concern to our community, including the Montgomery County Chapter of the Maryland Municipal League and Montgomery Municipal Cable (the station that films and broadcasts many of our events). Mayor White, Bob Shapiro and I attended MML's annual conference in Ocean City, and Bob and I also attended the conference of the International City/County Management Association held in San Antonio.

We also continued our involvement with the Friendship Heights Task Force (our Center hosts the meetings for the group) and the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (Council members Bob Schwarzbart and Len Grant represent the Village on this Committee).

In August we hosted a meeting of the Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. The Committee held meetings in various communities to highlight pedestrian safety awareness.



At the request of the Friendship Heights Transportation Management District Advisory Committee, the County installed pedestrian countdown timers at the Somerset Terrace/Wisconsin Avenue and Friendship Boulevard/Willard Avenue intersections. Look for more countdown timers to be installed on Wisconsin Avenue later in 2007.

B-CC RESCUE SQUAD CLOSES VILLAGE FACILITY

In 2001, the BCC Rescue Squad opened a satellite facility at 4602 North Park Avenue in space provided without charge by the Council. The Council paid to remodel the space and Polinger/Shannon & Luchs and 4615 North Park contributed appliances and furniture. The Rescue Squad purchased a “chase car” to be assigned to the office and provided staffing.

While this office was an experiment, it operated successfully for several years. Last year, however, we learned that the Squad had reached the point where they were having difficulty staffing the office and were trying to decide whether to abandon it or turn it into a full-time operation. In meetings with Squad personnel, the Council expressed its continuing support for the facility and offered to consider making modifications to the building that would make it feasible to expand the program. Nonetheless, in November the Rescue Squad voted to close the facility. Accordingly, the Council is investigating other uses for the space.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE FIELD OFFICE

The Field Office, also in Village-owned space at 4602 North Park Avenue, is a cooperative effort between the Village Council and the Department of Police. The office will celebrate its tenth anniversary in 2007, and continues to attract police presence and visibility in the Village.



The Friendship Heights Metro bus depot reopened in December. Mayor Melanie White and Council member Bob Schwarzbart urged Metro officials to find a longterm solution to keep the depot open in the future.

MVA ON WHEELS



The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration Mobile Office is in its ninth year of service to the Village. Once a month the MVA bus parks on Friendship Boulevard next to the Village Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It provides all the services that are available at the MVA Express Offices, such as renewing driver’s licenses, renewing vehicle registrations, renewing MD photo identifications, obtaining disability placards, and returning tags. The friendly and efficient MVA staff on the bus—Sandy Bathurst, Rea Dimler, and Kathy Widerock—help make it one of the most popular and convenient services in the Village.

MVA Bus Schedule for first half of 2007 (all Mondays): January 29, February 26, March 26, April 23, May 21; no service in June

CHEVY CHASE CENTER COMPLETED

The redevelopment of Chevy Chase Center was completed in 2006. The Collection at Chevy Chase features two buildings with luxury retailers on Wisconsin Avenue, separated by a small park, with two new restaurants, M Café and Bar and Famoso Restaurant, in the rear. The new Giant grocery store opened in the summer, and our shuttle bus returned to its former (shorter) route to serve the new store (see photo below). New neighborhood retail opened on Wisconsin Circle, including Gifford's Ice Cream, Potomac Pizza, Eagle Bank, Lacoste, Chevy Chase Bank, Papyrus, Perez Salon and Day Spa, and Montgomery County Liquor. More tenants are



Our shuttle bus now stops in front of the new Giant at Chevy Chase Center.

BROOKS BROTHERS STORE EXPANDS

The Brooks Brothers store on Wisconsin Avenue expanded to occupy the space vacated when Tiffany & Co. moved across the street to join The Collection. The new Brooks Brothers opened in December, and construction to tie in the old space next door should be completed in February 2007.



WISCONSIN PLACE CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES



Source: New England Development

A revised rendering shows the Wisconsin Place project as seen from the Wisconsin Avenue/Western Avenue intersection. The new Bloomingdale's will be at the corner of Western Avenue and Friendship Boulevard, with office and retail buildings in front. The old Hecht's store closed in the summer of 2006 and is now being demolished. The Wisconsin Place project will also include a Whole Foods grocery store, a community center, underground parking, pedestrian plazas, and a public park at the corner of Willard Avenue and Friendship Boulevard, in front of the residential building. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2008.

Treasurer's Report

Dr. Alvan Morris

On the following pages is the proposed Village budget for FY08. It is based on a tax rate of 4 cents per \$100 of assessed property value. This maintains the tax reduction that the Council enacted last year. It is the lowest property tax rate allowed by our State charter!

The Village remains very solid financially with property valuations rising and strong reserves. State income tax, however, remains difficult to pin down. Last year we had to pay back \$83,000 that had been overdistributed in FY05. This year, the automatic filing deadline for late taxpayers was extended to October 15 from August 15. This has affected timing of our distributions and may affect residual receipts we normally receive in July and August and accrue for the prior fiscal year. To be conservative, after meeting with representatives from the State Revenue Administration Division, we have lowered our FY07 target to \$925,000, and budgeted the same amount for FY08. It is hoped we will do better.

Once again, our conservative projections serve us well. With additional revenues expected in other areas, and expected savings on the expense side of the budget, we are still anticipating a surplus in excess of \$200,000 this fiscal year. Additionally, our FY08 budget projects a surplus of \$69,700.



In order to make the proposed budget more meaningful to you, we continue the narrative format we began several years ago. Since the narrative only hits certain highlights of the budget, however, the footnotes at the end should still be consulted for a more complete explanation of the indicated categories. Public hearings will be held on the proposed FY08 Budget in February and March.

REVENUES

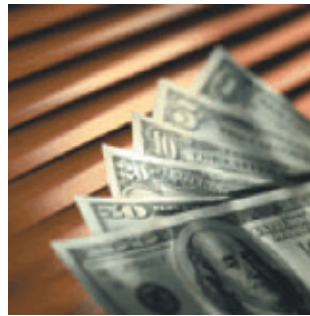
For FY08, Income taxes were budgeted at \$925,000 based on State projections. Although the phase-in of Village property assessments continues this year, we are not projecting increases but instead are basing FY08 Property tax revenues on FY07 assessments. Due to increases in interest rates, our interest income is again expected to substantially exceed the budget estimate for FY07. Once again, we do not expect in-

terest rates to continue to grow as fast and are basing FY08 income on the actual amount projected to be received in FY07. Parking violation income, while still exceeding budget, has fallen from the peak reached last year. All other revenue estimates for FY08 are basically static, resulting in expected revenues of \$1,941,000, an increase of 8.7% over the FY07 budget.

EXPENDITURES

General Government: This category has been increased an average of 5.8% over FY07 budgeted figures. Increases have been made in several areas, including Salaries, Benefits, and Telephone and utilities. As we all know, electricity rates have risen substantially. The Center is an all-electric building.

Public Safety: As we predicted last year, the security vehicle did not have much longer to go. When it became infeasible to repair it, we obtained a vehicle through our security contractor. While we expect the cost of that vehicle to rise somewhat in the future, it is hoped that it remains financially advantageous (as well as less aggravating) to continue this program.



Public Works: As we anticipated last year, the opening of the new Giant has eliminated the subsidy we had been receiving for our shuttle bus. This year we are allowing for the full increased cost provided for in our contract. Our present contractor, however, will

not be continuing to provide service to Montgomery County and will end service to us on February 28. As the County will take over the operation of all of its Ride-on system next year, we are negotiating with the County's interim contractor to operate our bus also. This makes future costs more difficult to predict.

Health/Education/Social Services; Recreation & Parks: These categories all remain basically the same as FY07.

HIGHLIGHTS: The FY08 budget retains last year's 20% property tax cut and keeps our rate at the lowest allowable by our charter. We are still able to retain all of our services and budget a surplus for the coming year. The Village's strong reserves enable us to keep our operation on an even keel without the ups and downs we constantly read about at the Federal and State and even County levels. That is the way we intend to keep it.

Friendship Heights Village: Proposed Budget for FY 2008

REVENUES:	Actual FY06	Budget FY07	Est.Actual FY07	Budget FY08
Property tax ¹	\$445,582	\$333,000	\$415,000	\$415,000
Income tax ²	874,366	968,000	925,000	925,000
Municipal Revenue Sharing ³	86,822	85,000	87,000	87,000
Gas/highway tax ⁴	70,834	70,000	70,000	70,000
Parking violation income ⁵	294,941	175,000	230,000	230,000
4602 N. Park Ave. rental	17,400	17,000	17,000	17,000
Interest income ⁶	151,510	80,000	140,000	140,000
Village Center rental income	18,818	15,000	15,000	15,000
Permit and License fees ⁷	13,279	10,000	10,000	10,000
Newsletter ad income	28,998	25,000	25,000	25,000
Village Center program/misc income ⁸	8,623	7,000	7,000	7,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,011,173	\$1,785,000	\$1,941,000	\$1,941,000
EXPENDITURES:	Actual FY06	Budget FY07	Est.Actual FY07	Budget FY08
General Government				
1 Elections	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
2A Financial admin. and accounting ⁹	3,095	12,000	8,000	12,000
2B Administrative costs ¹⁰	9,554	10,000	10,000	10,000
2C Memberships and conferences ¹¹	20,117	25,000	27,000	27,000
2D Legal counsel and consultants	13,420	15,000	15,000	15,000
2F Village Council reports	5,146	8,000	6,000	8,000
3A Salaries ¹²	433,238	475,000	469,000	506,000
3B Health/Life/Family Benefits ¹³	78,017	85,000	80,000	85,000
3C F.I.C.A.	36,854	39,000	38,000	41,000
3D Worker's Comp Insurance ¹⁴	2,000	0	0	0
3E Retirement Contribution ¹⁵	36,813	36,200	36,000	38,400
4A Xerox copiers	715	1,000	1,000	1,000
4B Aquarium	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900
4C Heating and cooling maintenance	7,273	8,000	8,000	10,000
4D Bldg. security system maintenance	3,120	2,500	3,000	3,000
5A Public officials liability insurance ¹⁴	2,095	0	0	0
5B Treasurer's bond ¹⁴	0	0	0	0
5C Bldg/General liability insurance ¹⁴	15,930	13,000	13,000	11,000
6 Telephone and utilities	33,296	36,000	50,000	50,000
7 Hospitality and special events ¹⁶	18,710	19,000	19,000	20,000
8A Equipment and supplies ¹⁷	9,972	15,000	12,000	15,000
8B Office and building furniture	2,738	10,000	10,000	10,000
8C Building improvement	0	0	0	0
8D 4602 N. Park Ave. maintenance	2,985	8,000	8,000	10,000
8E Computer equip/supplies	8,644	5,000	5,000	5,000
8F Center maintenance - repairs	15,115	25,000	20,000	25,000
8G Maintenance service ¹⁸	86,840	90,000	92,000	95,000
Total General Government	\$845,392	\$944,600	\$936,900	\$999,300
Public Safety				
9A Security Patrol contract	\$94,798	\$107,000	\$95,000	\$107,000
9B Police Field Office ¹⁹	2,130	5,000	5,000	5,000
9C Security vehicle maintenance ²⁰	6,071	6,000	8,000	10,000
Total Public Safety	\$102,999	\$118,000	\$108,000	\$122,000

Public Works	Actual FY06	Budget FY07	Est.Actual FY07	Budget FY08
10 Bus contract ²¹	\$156,549	\$307,000	\$282,000	\$330,000
11A Street maintenance	8,191	10,000	10,000	10,000
11B Sidewalk maintenance	2,254	5,000	5,000	5,000
11C Snow removal	19,412	35,000	35,000	35,000
11D Storm drain maintenance	0	2,500	2,500	2,500
12A Waste collection ²²	13,036	15,000	15,000	15,000
12B Recycling	949	1,500	1,500	1,500
13 Street lighting	12,370	14,000	16,000	18,000
14 Street signs	1,502	5,000	2,000	5,000
15 Trees	0	6,000	6,000	6,000
16 Villagescape ²³	4,422	15,000	21,000	21,000
Total Public Works	\$218,685	\$416,000	\$396,000	\$449,000
Health/Education/Social Serv.				
17B Health/Social services ²⁴	9,075	10,000	10,000	10,000
17C Housing Program ²⁵	4,510	5,000	5,000	5,000
17D Scholarship Program ²⁶	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Health/Education/Social Serv.	\$23,585	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
Recreation and Parks				
18C Lecture fees	4,125	2,500	5,000	5,000
18D Musicians' fees	24,485	28,000	28,000	28,000
18E Instructors' fees	(2,170)	4,000	2,000	4,000
18F Trip fees	5,925	8,000	8,000	8,000
18G Art/theme shows	2,335	2,000	2,000	2,000
18H Equipment purchases	0	0	0	0
18I Consumable supplies	3,825	8,000	6,000	8,000
18J Art supplies	10	300	0	0
18K Lunches, Brunches, Teas & Dinners	6,887	13,000	13,000	13,000
18L Hospitality	1,152	0	0	0
18M Center special events ²⁷	35,696	28,000	28,000	30,000
18O Bamberger Current Events Series ²⁸	4,100	10,000	10,000	10,000
19 Reading Room Materials	2,924	4,000	3,500	4,000
20B Flyers	0	0	0	0
20C Village newsletter	35,480	42,000	40,000	42,000
21A Village Parks: Electricity ²⁹	678	2,000	2,000	2,000
21B Village Parks: Water	778	4,000	4,000	4,000
21C Village Parks: Fountain Maint.	11,282	12,000	12,000	12,000
21D Village Parks: Lighting Maint.	4,389	4,000	10,000	4,000
21E Village Parks: Furniture	585	1,000	2,000	1,000
21F Village Parks: Walkway maint	2,493	4,000	5,000	4,000
21G Art fund	0	5,000	3,000	5,000
23 Landscaping contract	55,487	80,000	80,000	80,000
24 Arborist contract	0	10,000	5,000	10,000
Total Recreation and Parks	\$200,466	\$271,800	\$268,500	\$276,000
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,391,127	\$1,775,400	\$1,734,400	\$1,871,300
General Fund Deposit ³⁰	\$620,046	\$9,600	\$206,600	\$69,700
Capital Improvements Fund Deposit	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2,011,173	\$1,785,000	\$1,941,000	\$1,941,000
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$2,895,032	\$2,904,632	\$3,101,632	\$3,171,332
CAP. IMPROV. FUND BAL.³¹	\$1,051,329	\$1,101,329	\$1,000,348	\$1,061,075

FOOTNOTES

Revenues

- 1 The special tax rate for the Village of Friendship Heights (not less than 4¢/\$100 nor more than 20¢/\$100 on assessments based on 100% of value), set by the Friendship Heights Village Council, was 4¢/\$100 in FY2007, and is proposed to be 4¢/\$100 for FY2008, which begins July 1, 2007. Based on Montgomery County's estimate of assessable base of \$1,046,455,345 (11/06).
- 2 Estimate reflects the portion of the county tax rate returned to the Village from state filings.
- 3 An agreement between the county and municipalities (including special tax districts) requires the county to reimburse special tax districts for a portion of certain expenditures, which currently include park maintenance, health services, and road maintenance.
- 4 This amount is derived from a state formula based on the number of registered vehicles at Village addresses.
- 5 Parking violation income is collected by Montgomery County. The Village revenue share is 75%.
- 6 Interest is from Village funds placed in a state-regulated fund established for local Maryland governments—the Local Government Investment Trust. Interest on the Capital Improvements Fund, included in the audit figure, is not included in the budget.
- 7 Permit fees are paid by contractors who occupy public rights-of-way (streets and sidewalks). By law, the fees defray only the reasonable administrative costs of maintaining the permit system and are currently \$250. Certain license fees are also received from the state.
- 8 Includes a percentage of art sales and commission from produce market sales.

Expenditures

- 9 Includes the annual audit and financial statements required by law.
- 10 Includes taking of the minutes for the monthly public Council meetings, postage, and stationery.
- 11 Includes Maryland Municipal League dues (approximately \$13,000/year).
- 12 Salaries of 5 full-time and 6 part-time employees. (The Center is open seven days a week and four evenings until 9 p.m.) Volunteers provide additional support to staff.
- 13 Covers costs of health insurance, life insurance, and other benefits provided to qualifying employees.
- 14 Categories 3D, 5A, 5B, and 5C have been combined under category 5C. All are part of a package.
- 15 Council contribution to employee retirement plan.
- 16 Volunteer/staff annual appreciation dinner, condolence flowers, and holiday decorations.
- 17 Includes general cleaning products, restroom paper supplies, copier paper, and office supplies.
- 18 Contract for maintenance staff at Village Center. Includes cleaning, minor repairs, setups and takedowns of equipment, streetcleaning, and 4602 North Park cleaning.
- 19 Cost to maintain Police Field Office at 4602 North Park Avenue.
- 20 Cost of security vehicle provided by security contractor.
- 21 Contract for operation of shuttle bus, including vehicle, drivers, maintenance, insurance.
- 22 Includes collection of Center trash and recyclables and park trash six times per week.
- 23 Cost to install and maintain flower baskets on streetlight poles.
- 24 Includes cost of 4-part program with Suburban Hospital and other health related services.
- 25 Cooperative program with county and Village landlord for transitional housing for one needy family.
- 26 To fund educational scholarship(s). Recipient(s) selected by the Council.
- 27 Cost of four major seasonal events each year.
- 28 Continuing current events series originally established by donation.
- 29 Expenditures for all three parks (Willoughby, Humphrey, Page) are consolidated in items 21A-21F.
- 30 An increase in the general fund of \$69,700 is budgeted for FY2008. Actual 2006 deposit does not reflect \$83,000 refunded to the State of Maryland for an over distribution in FY2005. This amount is reflected in the fund balance.
- 31 The FY07 figure reflects expenses expected to be incurred for the Center waterproofing project. Neither the Estimated Actual FY07 nor the FY08 estimates include any future Capital Improvement projects. Potential projects may include, but are not limited to, additional streetlights and road repaving. Estimated interest has been added to both figures.

2006 Program Report

Jennie Fogarty, Associate Program Director

Anne O'Neil, Associate Program Director

The Friendship Heights Village Center was as busy as ever in 2006 with classes, concerts, lectures, trips, and special events.

Ongoing programs offered at the Center in 2006 included YMCA exercise classes, Great Books discussion groups, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish classes, Tai Chi, yoga, art classes, Thursday night movies, book signings, poetry readings, Scrabble and bridge groups, Wednesday night concerts, Suburban Hospital blood

pressure checks, on-site nurse specialist, "Low Vision Lunch and Learn," monthly art exhibits, University of Maryland's health insurance assistance, tax assistance from February to April, Coffee and Current Events, Walking Club, the MVA's Mobile Office and Twin Springs Produce Market from May to November.



New York Times columnist **Frank Rich**, one of several prominent speakers to appear as part of our **Bamberger Current Events series**, signs books in our Center library.

CLASSES

A variety of exercise and movement classes were offered at the Center in 2006: Mat Pilates taught by Ginger Russell; Bones for Life taught by Hedy Ohringer; Fit Forever taught by YMCA instructors; Strength Training taught twice a week by physical therapists from the National Rehabilitation Hospital; Tai Chi taught twice a week by Thomas Johnson; and, Yoga taught by Robin Dinerman twice a week. A "drop-in" Tai Chi class led by students was held once a week and the Walking Club continued to meet three times a week.

Several art classes were offered: Drawing and Painting taught by Doris Haskel; Still Life Painting

taught by Joan Samworth; Chinese Brush Painting taught by Helene McCarthy; and Portraiture in Pencil and Pastel taught by Marianne Winter. Classes in Italian, through the Italian Cultural Society, and Conversational Spanish 1 and 2, taught by Elena Marra-Lopez, continued and were well attended. Café Muse, the monthly presentation of poetry by the Village and The Word Works, enjoyed another successful year.

BOOKSIGNINGS AND LECTURES

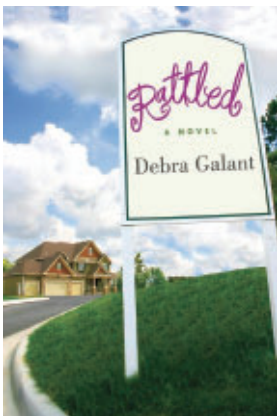
Authors who appeared at the Center during the year included:

- **Daniel Benjamin**
- **Paul Bremer**
- **Debra Galant**
- **Haynes Johnson**
- **Christopher Kimball**
- **David Maraniss**
- **Sen. George McGovern**
- **Joan Nathan**
- **Joyce Carol Oates**
- **James Reston, Jr.**
- **Frank Rich**
- **Tom Ricks**
- **Marion Rodgers**
- **Susan Shreve**
- **Steven Simon**
- **Leonard Steinhorn**
- **Judith Warner**
- **Frank Warren**
- **Michael Weisskopf**
- **Charles & Barbara Whalen**

In this election year, candidate forums were held for County Executive (in July) and County Council District 1 (in October). In addition to our monthly lectures on health, speakers included Col. Larry Wilkerson, former chief of staff to Colin Powell; Murray Horwitz, head of AFI Silver Theatre, on the Oscars; Maryland Attorney General Joseph Curran, Jr.; Erland Heginbotham on China and India; Rachel Thompson on George C. Marshall; New York Times columnist John Tierney; Rosa Weinstein on the history of nursery rhymes; Phyllis Richman on her career as *Washington Post* restaurant reviewer; and, E. J. Dionne on the 2006 election results (co-sponsored with the Norman and Florence Brody Public Policy Forum of the University of Maryland).



Former Ambassador Paul Bremer came to the Center to discuss his book about Iraq.





We went to Biltmore House during our trip to Asheville, North Carolina, in May.

ON THE GO

Overnight trips included a journey to Asheville, N.C. in May and the annual December trip to New York City for the Radio City Christmas Spectacular. Other outings included day trips to Atlantic City, Charles Town, Philadelphia, Tilghman Island, and Rehoboth Beach; dinners out at 1789 and the Army and Navy Club; visits to the National Gallery of Art and the Phillips Collection; tours of Dodona Manor, home of Gen. George C. Marshall; and the National Portrait Gallery.

Villagers attended the Washington Nationals' Opening Day game and performances at the Strathmore Music Hall, the Austrian Embassy, The Clarice Smith Center, The Kennedy Center, and Olney Theatre.

CONCERTS

Audiences enjoyed Wednesday night performances ranging from classics from Emery Davis, Ericka Ovette and the American Trio to classical from Audrey Maxwell and the Silver Strings, Sheila Grimes and Les Amis de Mozart, and the Friday Morning Music Club. Richard Miller offered Brazilian tunes while Barbara Martin and

Mac Walter sang the blues. Vocal Express brought the best of Broadway to the Village Center, while David McLaughlin, joined by Springfield Exit, showed the superb musical talent that has earned him two Grammy nominations.

The Kinor Dancers delighted audiences with their Israeli folk dances, and IONA offered Celtic melodies. Karen Collins celebrated the Mardi Gras season and the Dixie Power Trio played Dixieland. The Greg Harrison Band, The Tim Roberts Jazz Quartet, and Project Natale offered cool jazz on the hot nights of our Summer Concert Series. In addition, we welcomed performers from distant shores as the NA Pua Mae'ole Hawaiian



Our annual Camp Friendship in July was a big hit with the kids once again.

Music Ensemble from Pahoia, Hawaii, dazzled our audience. Ellouise Schoettler touched our hearts and tingled our spines with her heart warming and chilling tales. Our Steinway never sounded better as Seager and Sisson, Frederick Moyer, and Haskell Small offered performances.

We concluded the year with performances celebrating the holidays by Carmina, Cathleen Kenny, and the unstoppable Jack Stanton. The Landon Symphonette also presented concerts in January, May and September.

FOR THE KIDS

Children's programs continued to grow with Saturday morning storytelling by Barbara Papendorp, a visit from the Chesapeake Children's Museum MEOW bus, and a treat-filled Halloween Party. At our annual week long Camp Friendship in July, kids aged 3 to 8 came to the Center for craft and cooking days, art projects, and a special finale.



In December we visited New York to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular.



1972 Presidential running mates Sargent Shriver and George McGovern spent a few moments reminiscing following Mr. McGovern's booksigning at the Center.

HEALTH

Issues of health and health care have always been of interest to Village residents. The Visiting Nurse Association administered nearly 600 flu shots at the Center in October and November. In July, the Village Council sponsored a series of CPR and AED classes called "Project Heart-Beat" at a very low cost for residents, continuing the very successful program that began the year before (when 140 people received CPR and defibrillator training). Suburban Hospital continued to provide weekly blood pressure checks and a nurse on site, as well as home visits and monthly health lectures. Dr. Ana Gardano, a Life Transitions consultant and coach and Village resident, offered two workshops on "Life Begins at 40." AARP



"Owl's Head Light" by Marianne Giguere was featured at Friendship Gallery in March.

Safe Driving workshops were offered in the spring and fall and were filled as always. Dr. Kevin Rindal, of Friendship Heights Chiropractic, led a series of lectures entitled "Healthy Aging." In September, a new program called "Low Vision Lunch and Learn" began. Participants in the program, a partnership between the Prevention of Blindness Society and the Village, bring a

bag lunch and join a low-vision occupational therapist for fellowship and education.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Our four special community events—Community Day, July 4th, Fall Festival, and New Year's Day Open House—were fun and festive and allowed us to recognize volunteers who have given their time to Center activities. We also enjoyed a barbeque in the Park, a wine tasting with wine expert Ken Richards in July, and a Draper's and Damon's fashion show and tea in April.

ART EXHIBITIONS

Through the efforts of Millie Shott, our curator, Friendship Gallery features monthly art exhibits. In July, the Center again sponsored a community juried art show, attracting many local artists who incorporated the Fourth of July theme into their works. Cash prizes were donated by local businesses and given to the winners. In November residents of Friendship Heights exhibited in a show entitled "Friendship Friends and Family." "A Holiday

Affair" was offered again in November. This artisan fair gave residents an opportunity to shop for unique hand made gifts at the Center.



"Sunlit Path", by Susan Moses, was part of the Montgomery County Art Association show at the Friendship Gallery in June.

THANK YOU

Special thanks to all who help make our programs successful throughout the year. We particularly appreciate the thousands of hours donated by volunteers, including the Program Advisory Committee, whose suggestions and evaluations are so important.



This painting by Claire Carmichael was donated by her family to the Center. Claire was a beloved front desk receptionist who passed away in 2006.

Notice of Public Hearings

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 66-2 of the Montgomery County Code (1984 Edition), notice is hereby given that the Friendship Heights Village Council will conduct public hearings on Monday, February 12, 2007, and Monday, March 12, 2007, at 8:15 p.m. in the Village Center, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815, in connection with the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008, based on a proposed tax rate of 4¢/\$100 assessed property value. The final tax rate will be determined after the two public hearings. The Village Council will vote to establish the tax rate for FY2008 and notify the Montgomery County Council of said rate on or before June 1, 2007, pursuant to Section 66-2 of the County Code. A copy of the proposed budget is available at the office of the Friendship Heights Village Council, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Any persons desiring further information may call Julian Mansfield, Village Manager, 301-656-2797, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

2006 Federal income tax forms are available at the Center for copying and filing with the IRS. Search the index by subject or form number, and a staff member will make a copy for you. Normal copying charges apply. Call the Center in advance at 301-656-2797 to make sure the form you need is available.



The Mammovan, a mobile mammography unit from George Washington University Hospital, comes to the Village twice a year. The Mammovan offers on-site breast health screenings and consultation. It will return to the Village in 2007—check our newsletter for the schedule. Call 202-741-3252 to make an appointment.



Visit our website: www.friendshipheightsmd.gov



The Council Report

The Friendship Heights Village Council
4433 S. Park Avenue
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

2006 Annual Report and FY2008 Proposed Budget